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Testimony In Support of Senate Bill 390 Monday, March 12, 2012

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Good morning Chairmen Slossberg and Morin, Ranking Members McLachlan and Hwang,

I am Kevin Kelly, State Senator from the 21st District representing Monroe, Seymour, Shelton and Stratford.

I am here today to testify in support of SB 390, An Act Concerning The Purview Of The Legislative Regulation Review Committee.

The purpose of this bill is to amend the State Constitution to allow the Regulations Review Committee to be more proactive in its approach to regulation review. It would expand the purview of the legislative Regulation Review Committee, permit the Committee to direct an agency to amend or repeal any regulation the committee finds to be obsolete or outdated or one that is too onerous on the regulated community.

It would allow the Regulations Review Committee to affirmatively go out and compel agencies and departments to promulgate regulations and to amend or repeal regulations that are either obsolete or no longer necessary.

Each year, the Committee is required to receive a report of all outstanding state agency regulations. Some agencies and departments have not filed their regulations with our Committee, and I believe it is a disappointing trend. In my opinion, this is the result of bureaucratic stagnation that does not serve the people of Connecticut and those that these programs are designed to help. In addition, the voters who elect us to the legislature have an expectation that we oversee their government.

This bill will ensure that regulations are consistent with their intended purpose and, as the regulations become outdated, see improvements to bring them current and more efficient. We want our government to work for our citizens and those who rely on these regulations. Burdensome regulation can be an impediment to job growth. This bill will give the legislature the ability to make sure its laws are being implemented in the most effective manner.

In summary, there remain pending regulations in state agencies and departments that have never been brought before our Committee. If an agency does not come before the Committee, how can we take action on these regulations? This bill would give the Committee the authority to act when government agencies do not; providing our citizens more oversight, accountability and transparency over their government.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Kevin C. Kelly